

Message Text

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FODAG

FOLLOWING REPEAT MUSCAT 01086 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 01 SEP 76

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 1086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EFIS MU

SUBJECT: OMANGOV REQUESTS U.S. EXPERT TO INVESTIGATE LARGE FISH
KILL

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1, AMBASSADOR WAS TELEPHONED BY AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES MINISTER SHANFARI FOR HELP IN IMMEDIATELY OBTAINING
SERVICES OF U.S. FISHERIES EXPERT. AMANGOV IS WORRIED BY
DEATH OF FISH ALONG DHOFAR COAST. FOR LAST TWO DAYS "HUNDREDS
OF TONS" (BY OMANGOV ESTIMATE OF DEAD FISH HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED
ON A THIRTY-MILE STRETCH OF BEACHES FROM RAYSUT TO TAQA.

2. MASSIVE FISH KILL SUCH AS THIS HAS NOT HAPPENDED BEFORE
IN DHOFAR. OMAN FISHERY OFFICIALS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KILL IS
CAUSED BY RED TIDE; RED TIDE HAS HAPPENED SPORADICALLY DURING
1973-74 IN NORTHERN OMAN BUT IS VERY RARE OFF DHOFAR. SHORTAGE
OF OXYGEN IN WATER CAUSED BY ROUGH MONSOON SEAS HAS OCCAS-
IONALLY KILLED MODERATE NUMBER OF SARDINES IN SUMMER MONTHS,
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BUT ALL KINDS OF FISH FROM GROUPERS TO SMALL SPECIES ARE NOT

AFFECTED. TWO WEEKS AGO SAF DUMPED 50 OBSOLETE PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS 16 MILES OFFSHORE, BUT OMANGOV DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ORDANCE DUMPING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEM.

3. OMANGOV IS RIGHTLY WORRIED SINCE MAJOR DECLINE IN DHOFAR FISHING GROUNDS WOULD WRECK PROMISING EXPORT INDUSTRY AS WELL AS THROWING THOUSANDS OF FISHERMEN OUT OF WORK. NEITHER OMANGOV NOR UNDP HAVE EXPERTS IN COUNTRY QUALIFIED TO ASCERTAIN CAUSE OF FISH KILL. INFORMATION FROM DHOFAR IS SCANTY, BUT SAMPLES OF WATER AND DEAD FISH ARE BEING FLOWN TO MUSCAT. AT REQUEST OF OMANGOV, UNDP HAS ALREADY CONTACTED HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK AND FAO ROME FOR HELP IN PROVIDING EXPERT; AG MINISTER SHANFARI WAS DESPERATE ENOUGH TO OFFER TO PAY FOR UN SPECIAL ASSISTANCE. SHANFARI CONTACTED AMBASSADOR FOR U.S. EXPERT AT SAME TIME.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT CONTACT DEPT OF AGRICULTURE OR OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES, AND, SUBJECT TO RESULTS OF URGENT USG CONSULTATION WITH UNDP NEW YORK, CONSIDER MAKING FISHERIES EXPERT AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST OMANGOV INVESTIGATE PROBLEM. WOLFF

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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